

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SCA-01 H-01 L-02 PRS-01 SS-15

SY-04 SSO-00 /036 W

----- 062440

R 211412Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0580

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (HUBER, JOHANNA)

SUBJECT: ASSAULT ON AMERICAN CITIZEN

SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 16, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHOSE HUSBAND WORKS FOR CONTROL DATA CORPORATION IN ROMANIA WAS ASSAULTED ON MAIN THOROUGHFARE OF BUCHAREST BY TWO MEN CLAIMING TO BE MEMBERS OF THE SECRET POLICE. EMBASSY ASKED ROMANIAN MFA AND POLICE FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENT, AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF THE POLICE THAT POLICE WERE NOT INVOLVED. THE PRESIDENT OF CONTROL DATA HAS COMPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR BOGDAN IN WASHINGTON ABOUT MATTER, ACCORDING TO LOCAL CONTROL DATA MANAGER KENNETH YEAGER.

1. BETWEEN 1230 AND 1300 HOURS, OCTOBER 16, MRS. JOHANNA ELKE HUBER WAS COMING OUT OF A LARGE STORE ON BLVD. MAGHERU, "THE UNIC", WHEN SHE

WAS ASSAULTED BY TWO MEN, ONE OF WHOM SHOWED AN IDENTIFICATION CARD INDICATING HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE POLICE. DURING SCUFFLE, WHILE THE TWO MEN ATTEMPTED TO PIN MRS. HUBER TO A WALL, TWENTY TO FORTY ROMANIANS REPORTEDLY GATHERED TO WATCH WHAT WAS HAPPENING. NONE OF THEM MADE ANY EFFORT TO ASSIST MRS. HUBER. WHEN MRS. HUBER'S PURSE

FELL TO GROUND, SPILLING CONTENTS, THE TWO MEN SAW HER AMERICAN PASSPORT AND FLED.

2. MRS. HUBER REPORTED INCIDENT TO HER HUSBAND, LAWERENCE DAVID HUBER, AN EMPLOYEE OF CONTROL DATA, WHO IMMEDIATELY INFORMED HIS
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BOSS, MR. KENNETH YEAGER. TOGETHER THEY WENT TO THREE DIFFERENT

POLICE STATIONS, SEEKING TO LODGE A COMPLAINT. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE LISTENED TO AT EACH STATION, NO ONE WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT THEIR WRITTEN COMPLAINT, TRANSLATED INTO ROMANIAN. FRUSTRATED IN ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN AN EXPLANATION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES, THEY CAME TO THE EMBASSY TO SEEK ASSISTANCE.

3. ON OCTOBER 18, AFTER LEARNING ABOUT INCIDENT, CONSUL VISITED CONSULAR DIRECTORATE OF MFA AND EXPLAINED INCIDENT TO OFFICIALS THERE. THEY PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER, AND INFORM EMBASSY PROMPTLY OF RESULTS. DURING VISIT, THE CONSUL EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH EMBASSY AND CONTROL DATA WERE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT MATTER, AND PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION, MR. WILLIAM C. NORRIS, HAD TOLD HIS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES THAT IF ANOTHER INCIDENT OF THIS NATURE OCCURRED, THE CONTROL DATA SHOULD IMMEDIATELY EVACUATE ALL PERSONNEL TO AUSTRIA. CONSOFF CONCLUDED BY STATING IF THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WERE INVOLVED, AN APOLOGY WAS EXPECTED.

4. NEXT, CONSUL VISITED GENERAL CHIRIAC, CHIEF OF INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF POLICE. IN SAME MANNER, HE OUTLINED FACTS OF CASE, AND REQUESTED IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION. HE POINTED OUT PERSONNEL MANAGER OF CONTROL DATA FOR EASTERN EUROPE, MR. ROMAN SAS-ZALOCZIECKI,

HAD AN APPOINTMENT AT EMBASSY AT 1000 A.M. NEXT DAY. AT SAME TIME HE PRESENTED MR. HUBER'S COMPLAINT TO GENERAL WHO PROMISED TO GIVE VERBAL REPORT TO EMBASSY BY NEXT MORNING.

5. EARLY OCTOBER 20 EMBASSY RECEIVED REPORT FROM GENERAL CHIRIAC. THE GENERAL STATED THAT INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNDER HIS PERSONAL SUPERVISION ESTABLISHED THAT ROMANIAN POLICE OFFICIALS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN MATTER, AND THAT TWO MEN WERE PROBABLY "HOLLIGANS" IMPERSONATING POLICEMEN. HE SAID INVESTIGATION WAS CONTINUING IN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE TWO MEN INVOLVED. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT WHEN MRS. HUBER RETURNED FROM LONDON (WHERE CONTROL DATA SENT HER AND HER HUSBAND FOR TWELVE DAYS) SHE COME IN TO TALK TO HIM PERSONALLY. HE HOPED THAT BY THEN THE POLICE MIGHT HAVE SOME SUSPECTS MRS. HUBER COULD IDENTIFY.

6. SAME MORNING, WHEN THE CONTROL DATA CORPORATION PERSONNEL MANAGER VISITED THE EMBASSY, HE WAS INFORMED OF THE ABOVE. HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID HE WOULD SEND REPORT TO HIS HOME OFFICE.

7. COMMENT: THE FACTS IN THIS MATTER ARE STILL UNCLEAR, BUT TOGETHER WITH LOCAL CONTROL DATA MANAGER WE ARE PURSUING TALKS WITH ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES TO CLARIFY SITUATION. VIETS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba2
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUCHAR04848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740299-0813
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741032/aaaabaof.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba2
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by shawdg>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <21 JUN 2005 by blochd0>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2005 by powellba2>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSAULT ON AMERICAN CITIZEN SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 16, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHOSE HUSBAND WORKS FOR
TAGS: CASC, (HUBER, JOHANNA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005